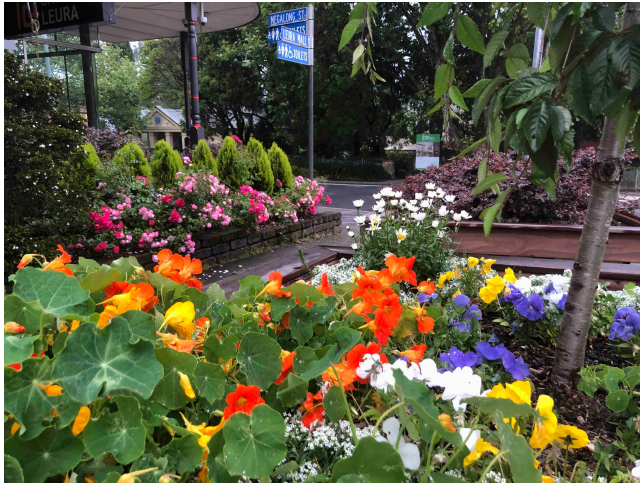


LVA Gardener's Report
December 2022 and January 2023
for Leura Village Association Meeting
of 31 Jan 2023



December was a busy month with 59 gardening hours for the LVA gardening team including 40.5 volunteer hours contributed by ten Gollies, myself included, and 18.5 hours in my role as a paid gardener. This included volunteer Christmas decorating in the Mall.

January was less demanding with 19 volunteers hours plus 9.5 hours paid gardening for a total 28.5 hours. This does not include administration.

Christmas: The Gollies decorated the ornamental Plum outside Leura Butchers' with old garden tools and plastic plant-pots re-purposed as Christmas bells. We festooned the dwarf conifers outside Woollies with beads and baubles. A colourful 'Gardeners of Leura' sign created by Jenny Morris for the Golly 'Christmas tree' has become a permanent feature.

Weather: The waves of sun and heat in December and January caught us on the hop. For the first time in over a year, we have needed to water. Some street trees have suffered from the excessive rains leading to reduced oxygen in the soil.

Summer Flowering: Following their very hard prune in late winter, the roses at the top and bottom of the Mall have flowered well. Mid-season deadheading should bring another flush. Petunias, Pansies, Begonias, Salvias and Hydrangeas are also providing mid-summer colour. The Lavenders have been below par with all the rain.

Pruning: This is a never-ending activity with rain-sun-rain encouraging abundant growth. Our work has included pruning lower/ dead branches of the London Planes. The hard prune in late Spring of the large Indica Azaleas has paid off with lush and lower regrowth. We expect a bountiful flower show next Spring.

Compost Corner: Green waste has been piling up beyond the capacity of our two bays at CC. At our request, Council staff chipped our large piles of pruned branches so that these could then be added to the bays in more compact and compostable form. Council also took away 4 large bags of weedy material.

Car Park Pruning: The car park beds are the Council's responsibility. They do at times need reminding. Our first request of the year for pruning in the car park received a remarkably prompt response. We discovered that retailers and hospitality owners had also put in requests. Good to keep this in mind.

Mural Bed: In January, we removed two half-dead natives (casualties of the cold wet winter) as well as relocating the large clump of Clivias to a more suitable location. We will replant the 'exotic' end of the bed with left-over Salvias and Daisies.

NOTE: The mural has unfortunately been tagged with graffiti. This will probably need a professional artist to paint over and touch up the mural.

Clivias' new home: These have been divided, trimmed and replanted in a shadier location along the inside edge of the Azaleas in front of the old Circus shop (170-174 the Mall). Donated bromeliads will also be added.

Weeding: constant vigilance over the last four years has greatly reduced weeds. The weed patrol continue particularly on the beds bordering the Roundabouts.

Thank you to Jenny, Doug, Wendy, Tom, Sue, Ron, Suzie, Phill, Therese for your toil and good cheer.

Kerry Brown
LVA horticulturist on behalf of the GOLlies



Therese and Wendy on pruning.



Jenny and Doug with Golly Christmas tree and new sign.



Festooned dwarf conifer outside Woollies.



Tom watering pansies and ferns.



Therese, Kerry and Doug triaging green waste at Compost Corner.



Phill after mattocking out the Clivias.



Suzie on weed patrol.